
From: Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>
Cc: mrb@mrb-law.com
Subject: Intervention Form: EB-2022-0335 - Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

Intervention Form

Case Number:

EB-2022-0335

Intervenor Name:

Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

Mandate and Objectives:

OGVG works to promote and connect its growers with government agencies, consumers, retailers and foodservice operators across North America through various government lobbying events, research, marketing initiatives, trade shows and community activities. As a whole, OGVG strives to support the Ontario greenhouse vegetable sector and its growers, however possible, to ensure success for today, sustainability for tomorrow, and fresh, nutritious, quality produce for all.

Membership of the Intervenor and Constituency

Represented:

The Ontario greenhouse vegetable sector is a major contributor to the Ontario economy, generating over \$820 million in farm gate receipts and accounting for approximately 10,000 jobs annually. OGVG, as an organization, represents approximately 200 greenhouse pepper, tomato, and cucumber growers in the province. Given the nature of greenhouse production systems, OGVG members are heavily reliant on energy, particularly natural gas. Over one third of greenhouse production costs are energy-related and as such rate increases and pricing adjustments serve to threaten the global competitiveness of the sector.

The Ontario greenhouse sector is growing. In fact, in evidence filed by Union Gas in its 2013 rate case, the greenhouse sector was shown to be the fastest growing sector of Union's business markets exhibiting a doubling of volume between the 2007 Board- approved and the 2013 Forecast volumes. In its recent application to increase the capacity on its Panhandle System EGI notes the continued growth of greenhouse related load on its system, with EGI forecasting that by the winter of 2030/31 40% of the total firm demand in the Panhandle System Market will be from greenhouses (EB-2022-0200, Exhibit I.APrO.6). OGVG members' natural gas consumption is important to Enbridge Gas Inc. ("EGI") and greenhouse production in general is important to the Ontario economy.

Programs or Activities Carried Out by the Intervenor:

The Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers (OGVG) is regulated under the Farm Products Marketing Act (FPMA). Under Regulation 417 of this Act, OGVG is responsible for licensing all growers, packers and marketers of Ontario greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers. In addition to licensing, OGVG performs a spectrum of services for its members; areas of focus include research, food safety, energy, environment, market performance and marketing.

For recent news stories covering OGVG's activities please see <https://www.ogvg.com/in-the-news>.

Governance Structure:

As a member-based organization, a Board of Directors and committees have been put in place to aid in the decision making process and to ensure the standards of the sector. The Board also annually reviews, amends as appropriate, and approves the General Regulations for OGVG. Specific to interventions before the OEB, OGVG's representatives take direction from OGVG's Science, Regulatory Affairs & Government Relations Manager Aaron Coristine.

Representatives:

Michael Buonaguro
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Aaron Coristine
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Other Contacts:

Frequent Intervenor Form:

OEB Proceedings:

Recent proceedings where OGVG was granted intervenor status:

EB-2022-0200: 2024 Cost of Service Application, Enbridge Gas Inc.

EB-2023-0062: - Enbridge Gas Inc. - 2021 DSM Deferral and Variance Account Disposition Application

EB-2021-0149: Enbridge Gas Inc.: Application-2020 Deferral Accounts and for approval of its 2020 Earnings Sharing Calculation

EB-2022-0110: Enbridge Gas Inc.: 2021 Utility Earnings and Disposition of Deferral & Variance Account Balances Application

EB-2021-0002 Enbridge Gas Inc. 2022-2027 DSM Plan

OGVG has never been denied intervenor status in an OEB proceeding.

Issues:

OGVG participated in the IRP Proceeding that resulted in the framework under which the proposed projects are to operated, and continues to have a material interest in the effectiveness of IRP to avoid unnecessary capital spending on EGI's system. At the same time, OGVG expects that its members are amongst the most likely of EGI's customer groups to maintain a specific need for natural gas in the long term, such that OGVG expects to continue to have a long term interest in ensuring that EGI maintains and develops the necessary the capacity to meet the natural gas needs of OGVG's members, who use natural gas not only for heat, but also for the production of carbon dioxide as part of their greenhouse operations.

Policy Interests:

OGVG represents a specific group of identified ratepayers.

Hearings:

No comment.

Evidence:

No intention to file evidence at this time.

Coordination with Other Intervenors:

OGVG has an ongoing relationship with the intervenors that usually intervene in OEB proceedings with respect to EGI, and coordinates with them as necessary and possible. In this instance, where the focus of the proceeding is relatively narrow (confined to the specifics of two proposed pilot projects) OGVG expects it will be able to avoid any significant duplication through its relationship with the other parties.

Cost Awards:

As a not-for-profit organization, OGVG does not have other funding sources to ensure experienced representation to participate in and assist the Board with these regulatory proceedings. Therefore, OGVG would respectfully request a determination of eligibility for cost award in this consultation. OGVG retains professionals who have experience representing intervenor interests and, OGVG respectfully submits, have assisted the Board in previous proceedings in an efficient and responsible manner.

Language Preference:

English